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**Consumer Price Index  
Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI CMSA  
June 2000**

Retail prices in the Chicago area jumped 1.3 percent in June, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Chicago area Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for June was 175.8 (1982-84=100), representing a 4.1 percent increase over the past 12 months.

Peter J. Hebein, Regional Commissioner for the Bureau in Chicago, said that a sharp 17.4 percent hike in energy costs were responsible for almost all of the June rise in the CPI-U. Excluding energy, the index would have increased 0.1 percent. Gasoline, utility natural gas, and electricity all posted significant price increases in June and were responsible for large increases in the housing and transportation components. The recreation component also recorded a large gain. Small increases were found in the food and beverages and the medical care components. Setbacks were reported in the apparel, education and communications, and other goods and services components.

Table A. Percent Changes in the CPI-U, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI  
(not seasonally adjusted)

(not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure Category	Changes from preceding month							12 mo. ended June'00
	1999	2000						
	June	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	
All items	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.4	-0.2	1.0	1.3	4.1
Food & beverages	-.4	.4	.9	-.8	-.5	1.7	.3	2.7
Housing	1.3	.1	.5	.5	-.1	1.2	1.5	3.7
Apparel	-6.7	-.3	4.0	2.3	-.5	-.5	-2.7	-2.0
Transportation	-.1	.5	1.5	1.4	-.7	2.4	3.5	11.9
Medical care	.5	.3	.3	.2	.4	-.7	.3	1.7
Recreation	5.0	1.9	-1.4	.3	-.1	-1.1	4.6	-2.2
Education & communication	-.2	1.9	-.6	0	-.4	.2	-1.0	1.5
Other goods & services	1.5	2.3	-.3	.1	2.1	-1.0	-.5	2.3

The transportation component increased 3.5 percent from May. All of the rise was attributed to a 22.9 percent increase in gasoline prices. Over the past 12 months, gasoline prices jumped 72.4 percent with about one-half of the gains occurring in the past two months. The overall transportation component rose 11.9 percent over the past year, up from a 1.1 percent annual rise a year earlier and small annual declines in the previous two years.

The housing component increased 1.5 percent from May to June. A 16.5 percent rise in the cost of utility natural gas was responsible for about one-half of this gain. For the past year, utility natural gas prices were 40.7 percent higher. This large gain follows a net decline of 15.2 percent over the previous six years. Increases in the cost of shelter and electricity were each equally responsible for the remainder of the rise in this component. Shelter costs rose 0.4 percent in June and were up 3.1 percent over the past 12 months. Electricity costs were up 8.2 percent in June but remained only 0.1 percent higher than their level a year ago. This stabilization in electricity charges follows a decline of 15.0 percent over the previous two years.

Recreation costs advanced 4.6 percent after posting declines in three of the previous four months. All of the rise in June was attributed to higher admission fees. Over the year, the recreation component fell 2.2 percent due largely to lower price tags on video and audio equipment and supplies.

Apparel prices fell for the third consecutive month, dropping 2.7 percent in June. Lower price tags were found on a wide variety of men's and women's clothing. The apparel index for June has fallen in each of the past 10 years, reflecting the start of summer sales. Over the past 12 months, the apparel component was 2.0 percent lower. This was the third consecutive annual decline in the apparel index during which time apparel prices have fallen 10.4 percent.

The food and beverage component increased 0.3 percent following a sharp hike in May. The cost of food away from home rose 0.4 percent and the cost of grocery food (food at home) increased 0.2 percent. For the year, the food and beverages component was 2.7 percent higher. This was in line with annual increases averaging 2.5 percent over the three previous years. The cost of food at home rose only 1.9 percent over the past year. This was down from annual gains averaging 2.9 percent in the prior three year period. In contrast, the cost of food away from home gained 3.0 percent from June 1999. This was above annual increases averaging 2.1 percent from 1997-1999.

The medical care component rose 0.3 percent in June and was up only 1.7 percent for the year. This annual increase was well below annual gains averaging 3.5 percent from 1997 to 1999.

The education and communication component declined 1.0 percent from May but were 1.5 percent higher for the past year. The other goods and services component decreased 0.5 percent in June and was 2.3 percent above its level a year ago.

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Scheduled release date for the July CPI:

Wednesday, August 16, 2000

### CPI HOTLINE SERVICE PROVIDES LATEST INDEXES 24 HOURS A DAY

The all items CPI-U and CPI-W for the U.S. City Average and for the Chicago area are available to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the Bureau's CPI Hotline service. This recorded message also provides percent changes from the prior period and from a year earlier as well as the scheduled release date for the next CPI issuance. The Hotline number in Chicago is (312) 353-1880, menu option 2.

### BLS FAX-ON-DEMAND SERVICE OFFERS CPI DATA 24 HOURS A DAY

If you have a fax machine and a touch-tone telephone, you can order current and historical CPI data and receive it within minutes by fax. The BLS Fax-on-Demand service offers over 280 documents containing the most popular BLS data including more than 65 documents containing CPI data for the nation, four regions, and 30 metropolitan areas. To receive by fax a catalog of documents available on the service, call 312 353-1880, select menu option 1, and when prompted, order document 1000.

### BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPI's for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 50,000 housing units and approximately 23,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index. Prices of food, fuels and a few other items are obtained every month in all 87 location. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the three largest geographic areas and every other month in other areas. Prices of most goods and services are obtained by personal visits of the Bureau's trained representatives.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Separate indexes are also published by size of city, by region of the country, for cross-classifications of regions and population-size classes, and for 26 local area. Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices among cities, they only measure the average change in prices for each base period.

The index measure prices changes from a designated reference data - 1982-84 that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65.

For further details see the BLS Handbook of Methods, Bulletin 2490, April 1997, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index.

**Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods**

**Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI** (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Apr. 2000	May 2000	June 2000	June 1999	Apr. 2000	May 2000
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	171.7	173.5	175.8	4.1	2.4	1.3
All items (1967=100) .....	513.1	518.2	525.1	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	168.8	171.6	172.1	2.7	2.0	.3
Food .....	167.7	170.6	171.1	2.3	2.0	.3
Food at home .....	173.9	178.8	179.1	1.9	3.0	.2
Food away from home .....	156.2	156.4	157.1	3.0	.6	.4
Alcoholic beverages .....	186.2	186.7	187.1	8.7	.5	.2
Housing .....	170.9	172.9	175.5	3.7	2.7	1.5
Shelter .....	206.6	209.0	209.8	3.1	1.5	.4
Rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	201.3	202.2	202.6	2.6	.6	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1 2</sup> .....	212.5	214.0	214.7	2.9	1.0	.3
Fuels and utilities .....	120.9	123.6	136.6	15.6	13.0	10.5
Fuels .....	108.2	110.9	124.5	17.9	15.1	12.3
Gas (piped) and electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	111.0	113.8	127.8	17.8	15.1	12.3
Electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	107.8	107.7	116.5	.1	8.1	8.2
Utility natural gas service <sup>1</sup> .....	115.2	121.1	141.1	40.7	22.5	16.5
Household furnishings and operations .....	105.9	105.9	106.8	-4.2	.8	.8
Apparel .....	115.8	115.2	112.1	-2.0	-3.2	-2.7
Transportation .....	147.7	151.3	156.6	11.9	6.0	3.5
Private transportation .....	144.2	147.6	153.4	12.5	6.4	3.9
Motor fuel .....	126.8	141.6	174.0	72.3	37.2	22.9
Gasoline (all types) .....	125.8	140.5	172.7	72.4	37.3	22.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>3</sup> .....	124.0	139.1	171.6	76.0	38.4	23.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>3 4</sup> .....	134.0	149.3	182.8	69.3	36.4	22.4
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>3</sup> .....	125.7	138.8	169.9	65.8	35.2	22.4
Medical care .....	259.2	257.4	258.2	1.7	-.4	.3
Recreation <sup>5</sup> .....	101.8	100.7	105.3	-2.2	3.4	4.6
Education and communication <sup>5</sup> .....	109.2	109.4	108.3	1.5	-.8	-1.0
Other goods and services .....	271.2	268.6	267.3	2.3	-1.4	-.5
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	171.7	173.5	175.8	4.1	2.4	1.3
Commodities .....	146.2	147.9	150.4	4.7	2.9	1.7
Commodities less food and beverages .....	131.6	132.8	136.2	5.9	3.5	2.6
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	143.3	145.6	151.8	12.7	5.9	4.3
Durables .....	116.6	116.6	117.1	-1.8	.4	.4
Services .....	196.4	198.1	200.3	3.6	2.0	1.1
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	167.4	169.3	171.6	4.2	2.5	1.4
All items less shelter .....	160.6	162.0	164.9	4.5	2.7	1.8
Commodities less food .....	134.1	135.2	138.6	6.0	3.4	2.5
Nondurables .....	156.7	159.3	162.8	7.4	3.9	2.2
Nondurables less food .....	146.4	148.6	154.6	12.4	5.6	4.0
Services less rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	194.8	195.9	199.6	4.2	2.5	1.9
Services less medical care services .....	191.3	193.1	195.3	3.7	2.1	1.1
Energy .....	114.5	122.2	143.5	40.3	25.3	17.4
All items less energy .....	179.3	180.4	180.6	1.7	.7	.1
All items less food and energy .....	182.1	182.8	183.0	1.7	.5	.1

<sup>1</sup> This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

<sup>2</sup> Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

<sup>3</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>4</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

<sup>5</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.